

Remarks

I. Status of the Claims

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claim 1 is pending in the application, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Claims 2-72 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

II. Amendment to the Specification

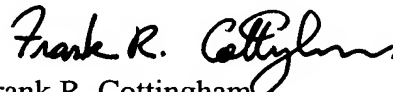
Applicants have amended the paragraph captioned "Cross-Reference to Related Application" to specify that the present application is a continuation of parent application No. 09/695,926, filed October 26, 2000, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/948,053, filed October 9, 1997. The amendment therefore introduces no new matter.

III. Conclusion

It is believed that the present application is now in condition for immediate examination. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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